

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3718

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1515

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 1515 VICE 0184)

FOL SENT NEWDELHI INFO BOMBAY CALCUTTA FROM MADRAS FEB 01, 1976:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRAS 184

MADRAS 184 RELAYED DEPT/COLOMBO PER EMBASSY INSTRUCTIONS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S RULE IN TAMIL NADU

1. MORNING PAPERS HEADLINE IMPOSITION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE. HINDU, BUT NOT INDIAN EXPRESS, REPORTS STATEMENTS WELCOMING MOVE FROM ADMK LEADER M.G. RAMACHANDRAN, TNCC(R) VICE PRESIDENT SAMPATH, CONGRESS FORMER CHIEF MINISTER BHAKTAVATSALAM, AND VARIOUS PRO-CONGRESS LESSER LIGHTS. ANTI-DMK TAMIL PAPERS MAKKAL KURAL AND NAVA SAKTHI PUT OUT SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTS RE-JOINING OVER THE DECISION.

2. PAPERS BRIEFLY REPORT KARUNANIDHI'S STATEMENT THAT PEOPLE OF TAMIL NADU WERE STAUNCH BELIEVERS IN GANDHIAN AND ANNADURAI'S IDEALS AND HIS APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE TO MAINTAIN
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PEACE AND AVOID VIOLENCE IN ANY FORM IN A SPIRIT OF DUTY,

DIGNITY AND DISCIPLINE. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS GRATEFUL THANKS TO THE PEOPLE OF TAMIL NADU AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR THE COOPERATION EXTENDED TO THE DMK GOVERNMENT DURING THE PAST NINE YEARS. WE ARE ALSO INFORMED THAT KARUNANIDHI TOLD NEWSMEN: "THIS WAS NOT EXPECTED, BUT IS NOT SHOCKING." (THIS IS NOT REPORTED IN THE PRESS.)

3. ORDERS BANNING MEETINGS, PROCESSIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS FOR 14 DAYS HAVE BEEN PROMULGATED THROUGHOUT TAMIL NADU. (FEBRUARY 3 IS ANNADURAI'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY AND IS TRADITIONALLY THE OCCASION FOR BIG COMMEMORATIVE MEETINGS BY BOTH THE DMK AND ADMK.) GOVERNOR SHAH MET LAST NIGHT WITH HIS TWO NEWLY-NAMED GOI ADVISERS, DAVE AND SUBRAMANIAM, AND WITH CHIEF SECRETARY SABANAYAGAM.

4. TNCC(R) GENERAL SECRETARY ANANDANAYAKI TOLD ONE OF OUR POLITICAL ASSISTANTS THIS MORNING THAT MRS GANDHI'S SUDDEN ACTION AGAINST THE DMK GOVERNMENT CAME AS A BIG SURPRISE TO HER, AND TNCC(R) GOT THE NEWS ONLY AT 6 O'CLOCK LAST EVENING. ANANDANAYAKI SAID SHE THOUGHT MRS. GANDHI HAD BEEN PROVOKED BY KARUNANIDHI'S EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO THE ANTI-MERGER SECTION OF CONGRESS (O), WHICH HAD FRUSTRATED THE FULL MERGER MRS. GANDHI HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR.

5. WE ARE INFORMED BY A MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY THAT A.V.P. ASAIT-HAMBI, DMK MLA AND CHAIRMAN OF THE TAMIL NADU TOURIST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, WAS ARRESTED THIS MORNING. ASAITHAMBI MADE A FIERY SPEECH PLEADING FOR AN INDEPENDENT TAMIL STATE AT THE DMK PARTY CONFERENCE IN COIMBATORE IN LATE DECEMBER (MADRAS 2012). WE ALSO HAVE A REPORT THAT SOME DMK MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN MADURAI DISTRICT.

6. LAST NIGHT POLICE GUARDS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT FACILITIES AT MINISTERS' HOUSES WERE WITHDRAWN. SEVEN PLATOONS OF ARMY PERSONNEL WERE REPORTEDLY FLOWN TO MADRAS LAST NIGHT AS REINFORCEMENTS. THE ARMY IS GUARDING THE SECRETARIAT AT THE FORT TO PREVENT ANY FILES FROM BEING REMOVED. AS OF NOON, THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF DISTURBANCES.
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